

MCR Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Taskforce
Questions Re: Taskforce Operations

The Regulatory Workgroup (i.e., Corps, EPA, OR DEQ, OR DLCD, and WA DOE – Water Quality & Coastal Zone) continues to be interested in your feedback regarding taskforce operations. A few individuals provided feedback on the first taskforce meeting, but we would greatly appreciate additional feedback from other participants. If you have input to share, then please complete the following questionnaire with responses directed to the Corps of Engineers. Alternatively, you can bring your completed questionnaire to the next taskforce meeting. Thank you for your time.

(1) Most feedback at the first taskforce meeting seemed to indicate a preference for more informal meetings. We would like to confirm that this is the preference of the overall taskforce. Should the overall format for taskforce meetings be:

- (a) less formal (e.g. roundtable), _____
- (b) more formal, x _____
- (c) continue as at the first meeting? _____

Please explain:

I would prefer a seating arrangement where we all could see each other. A more "formal"
structure could be designed to allow speakers to share views and interact without facilitation
by employees of EPA or the Corps between each exchange. I believe this would enhance
communication among the taskforce.

(2) The Regulatory Workgroup will provide the agenda, overheads presented at the meeting and brief summary of the issues addressed. Some members expressed a concern about having formal meeting notes while others seemed to want more informal meetings all around. Please indicate your level of concern about having detailed meeting notes and share any additional ideas you might have on this subject.

Meeting notes should be taken and circulated. It is essential that the possibility of inaccurate
representation of what occurs at the meetings be minimized (e.g. - consensus vrs. conditioned
agreement). The idea of video-taping the meetings is excellent, though my first choice would
be video plus transcribed minutes.

(3) The taskforce will meet at least annually. Additional meetings are expected, especially during the first year or two of this process. Please indicate how often you expect you could attend taskforce meetings given your individual situation:

- (a) No more than 2 per year, _____
- (b) 2-4 meetings per year, x _____
- (c) Other, _____

(4) We did not set a date for the next meeting of the taskforce. The Regulatory Workgroup is now proposing another taskforce meeting in early June so we can discuss primarily the 2000 dredging season (not discussed at the first meeting). If taskforce members would prefer to avoid travelling to Portland for this meeting, then we could distribute and discuss information regarding the 2000 dredging season via e-mail. Any comments or preferences regarding the proposal for a meeting in early June?

I would prefer face-to-face interaction regarding the 2000 dredging season. In fact, I encourage all possible ways of sharing concerns and ideas. It is essential to move towards building understanding (and ultimately trust in the accountability of the action agencies).

(5) At this time, the Regulatory Workgroup expects that most taskforce meetings will be held in Portland. However, the location of taskforce meetings could alternate if that best serves the taskforce membership. A few taskforce members seemed to be interested in having meetings outside of Portland. Please indicate your preference for taskforce meeting location:

(a) Portland, _____

(b) Other: (please specify below)

Hey, I prefer a coastal location (I live in Astoria); it kind of makes sense, too, since we're discussing ocean-related issues. However, I understand that Portland is most convenient for most agency folks. So... perhaps some meetings could be held in Astoria or Newport?

(6) The Regulatory Workgroup wants the taskforce members to be satisfied with how meetings are run and how agenda topics are selected. Would you like to see a taskforce representative selected to assist the Regulatory Workgroup with meeting procedures & agendas? ___yes_____

Any volunteers? The taskforce should select a representative by consensus.

Comments? _____

Great idea, but I can't volunteer. This questionnaire was a good idea, too. Finding ways to share our thoughts with the group between meetings is desirable & this interchange could be used to help formulate agendas.

(7) Some taskforce members expressed concerns about the balance of presentations to group discussions at the first taskforce meeting. Please indicate your preference for:

(a) more presentations? _____

Of what nature? _____

(b) more time for open discussions? ___x___

(c) other ideas?? _____

If we all know the agenda and parameters before the meetings, time can best be spent on focused discussion around specific topics. Some room for more open exchange should be provided.

(8) Would people prefer that we plan to order in lunches, i.e., either as a working lunch or just to shorten the time needed to get to, order, & eat lunch? (Please note that participants would still have to pay for their own lunches. Financial resources are not available to provide paid lunches.)

(a) Yes, _____

(b) No, ___x___

I, for one, like the lunch break.

(9) Any other questions or comments you would like to share regarding the taskforce? Thank you for distributing this questionnaire. I cannot overemphasize the value and distributing agendas and presentation information in advance of taskforce meetings. This will allow for appropriate preparation and, hopefully, productive discussion. We're all busy, so let's cut wasted time by sharing information in advance. Thanks again.

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